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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Multinational Programming and
Operational Centre for Eastern
and Southern Africa (MULPOC)

Seventh Meeting of the MULPOC
Committee of Officials

5-9 March 1984

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

1. It will be recalled that the first regional conference on the development and utilization of mineral resources in Africa held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, during February 1981 called upon African countries to co-operate in the development and utilization of their mineral resources in the following main area: the building up of the technical knowledge of the mineral resources base; the development of capabilities for mineral extraction and processing and for marketing of mineral products; development of intra-African markets for minerals and mineral products; manpower development; development of mineral exploration, mining and processing equipment industries; research and development; creation of financing investment and insurance institutions; and the protection of the environment. Moreover, the ECA secretariat was requested to undertake some studies and organise workshops, study tours, etc. for member States aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Arusha conference recommendations by member States.

2. It will further be recalled that the Sixth meeting of the Lusaka-based MULPOC Council of Ministers held in Mbabane, Kingdom of Swaziland in February 1983 decided that:

(a) member States would inform the secretariat on progress made in the implementation of the Arusha recommendations at the national levels, prior to meetings of the MULPOC organs, to enable the secretariat to include such information in this report;

(b) a subregional committee on mineral resources development composed of representatives of the member States should be established to monitor and review annually, among other things, the implementation of the Arusha Conference recommendations; and

(c) the ECA secretariat should intensify collaboration with the SADCC secretariat and the member State of SADCC (Zambia) responsible for the co-ordination of mineral resources development among the SADCC member States so as to accelerate the rate of mineral development and utilization in the subregion.

3. Up to the time this report was prepared (December 1983) nocinformation had been received by the secretariat from any member State regarding the implementation of the Arusha conference recommendations. On the other hand the secretariat is in the process of undertaking consultations with relevant national institutions and the secretariat of SADCC with a view to establishing a subregional committee on mineral resources.

4. During 1983 the secretariat undertook the following actions intended to promote the implementation of the Arusha conference recommendations: continued support to the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre; preparation and distribution to member States of the oil and gas map of Africa; promotion of co-operation between African countries and those of Latin America in the development of their mineral resources; and the organisation of a regional workshop on the role of coal in accelerated African economic growth.

5. Support to the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre by the secretariat included such actions as the provision of administrative and technical support to the institution; the promotion of participation by the countries of the subregion in the activities of the centre; and the promotion of donors support to the Centre. The institution, continued to experience serious difficulties largely because many of the countries of the subregion are not participating in its establishment and operation.

6. The regional workshop on the role of coal in accelerated African economic growth was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during July 1983. The workshop deliberated on various issues related to coal development and utilization in Africa and it is hoped that the report of the workshop which has already been distributed to member States will enhance co-operation by African countries in the development of these resources.

7. With regard to Africa-Latin America co-operation in mineral resources development, the report of the study tour of African specialists to Latin America (October 1982) was distributed to member States during 1983 with a request for information from the countries regarding ideas on areas of co-operation between the two regions, to enable the secretariat prepare a comprehensive study on this subject. The secretariat wishes to appeal to those countries which have not as yet responded to do so in good time so that the study can reflect the ideas of their countries.

8. Towards the end of 1984 the secretariat plans to organize a regional workshop on the role of copper in the accelerated economic growth of Africa in tandem with the second regional conference on the development and utilization of mineral resources in Africa. It is hoped that member States will actively participate in these activies.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION IV OF THE SIXTH MULPOC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. Resolution IV of the Sixth MULPOC Council of Ministers adopted at Mbabane, Kingdom of Swaziland in mid-February 1983.

appealed to those member States of the subregion which had not acceded to the membership of the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), to do so during 1983 as called for by the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Acts of Lagos;

called upon all member States of the subregion to provide the necessary political and material support for the effective operation of the Centre;

requested the Executive Secretary of ECA on behalf of the member States of the subregion to mobilize the necessary financial and technical assistance from the international community and bilateral donor resources for the operation of the institution; and

further requested member States to provide the ECA secretariat with information regarding actions taken at the national levels towards the implementation of the Resolution so that the secretariat can report to the next Council of Ministers on progress made in this regard.

2. During the late February 1983, the secretariat mounted a mission to United Republic of Tanzania to undertake, among other things, consultations with the Chairman of the Governing Council of the ESAMRDC regarding strategies for the promotion of membership to the Centre following the meeting of the Sixth Council of Ministers of the Lusaka-based MULPOC at Mbabane.

3. Taking into consideration the findings of that mission and the Resolution IV of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka-based MULPOC, the ECA secretariat wrote in mid-March 1983, to all the countries of the subregion not yet participating in the Centre, and sought the views of those Governments regarding actions to be taken at the national level towards the implementation of the Resolution.

4. Moreover, during 1983 the secretariat participated in missions to some of the countries of the subregion to seek their participation in the ESAMRDC. Similarly, the secretariat has continued to bring to the attention of the ECA Conference of Ministers and other relevant forum on the problems of subregional and regional institutions but all these efforts have not improved the membership position of the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre.

5. At a Governing Council meeting convened in Addis Ababa during August 1983 and attended by delegates from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the ECA, a number of decisions were taken which may improve the membership position of the Centre. Among the major decisions were those connected with: the formula for the distribution of contributions by member States to the budget of the ESAMRDC; payment of arrears by new members; modalities of operation of the Centre; and strategies for promoting membership to the Centre.

- 2 -

6. On the apportionment of contributions by member States to the budget of the Centre, the Governing Council approved that the Comores, Djibouti, Mauritius and the Seychelles should each pay one percent; Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland each pay two percent; Botswana, Madagascar, Somalia, Uganda and Zimbabwe each pay six percent; Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia each pay ten percent; and Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania each pay fifteen percent.

7. As regards the question of arrears, the Governing Council decided that new member States joining the Centre in 1983/84 will not be required to pay any arrears for the previous years of the operation of the Centre. Those countries which would join the Centre after 1984 will be required to contribute to the capital infrastructure which will have by then been established.

8. Regarding modalities for the operation of the Centre, the Governing Council directed the Centre to actively co-operate with all national institutions responsible for mineral resources development in the subregion and cultivate working relationships with them so as to demonstrate the advantages to be gained by the countries by becoming members to the ESAMRDC.

9. On the promotion of membership to the Centre, the Governing Council resolved that renewed efforts by members of the Governing Council and the Technical Advisory Committee should be undertaken with a view to increasing the membership of the countries of the subregion towards the operation of the Centre. These efforts would include missions to the countries, high level contacts in the countrires and increased publicity of the work of the institution within the subregion.

10. Mention in this report should also be made of Resolution IV of the ECA Silver Jubilee Council of Ministers establishing an ad hoc Committee to undertake an assessment of the objectives and operations of existing multinational institutions established under the aegis of the ECA and the OAU with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which their activities may better be rationalised, co-ordinated, harmonised and/or integrated. The work of the ad hoc committee was in progress at the time this report was under preparation and the ESAMRDC is one of the institutions under assessment.

11. Considering the critical roles that mineral resources play in socio-economic development (e.g. raw materials for industry; inputs to agricultural production; providers of energy; earners or conservers of foreign exchange earnings; providers of capital and consumable goods; employment generation etc.), and realising that such contributions by minerals towards socio-economic development would be enhanced through co-operative arrangements by the countries of the subregion, the secretariat wishes to appeal to all the member States of the subregion to implement Resolution IV of the Sixth MULPOC Council of Ministers as early as practicable.

12. The Secretariat has continued to mobilize donors support for the activities of the ESAMRDC but the low membership of the Centre by the countries of the subregion seems to have discouraged some potential donors to the Centre.

13. The Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation to the Governments of Belgium, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the European Economic Community (EEC) for the support they are rendering to the Centre. Likewise, the secretariat wishes to appeal to the countries of the subregion to take advantage of this donors assistance in their mineral resources development efforts by becoming full members of the Centre.